

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data communication program to cause a computer to execute:  
a reception step of receiving electronic mail with firmware attached  
via a network,  
an acquirement step of acquiring information relating to a rewrite  
5 order of said firmware from said electronic mail,  
a determination step of determining whether said firmware attains a  
write allowable state into a predetermined memory, based on said acquired  
information relating to a rewrite order, and  
a write step of writing said firmware into said predetermined  
10 memory when it is determined the firmware attains of a write allowable  
state by said determination step.
2. A data communication program to cause a computer to execute:  
a reception step of receiving electronic mail with firmware attached  
via a network,  
an acquirement step of acquiring information relating to a rewrite  
5 order of said firmware from said electronic mail,  
a determination step of determining whether said firmware attains  
a write allowable state into a predetermined memory based on said  
acquired information relating to a rewrite order, and  
a transmission step of transmitting said firmware to a predetermined  
10 module when it is determined the firmware attains a write allowable state  
by said determination step.
3. The data communication program according to claim 1, wherein  
said determination step determines the firmware attains a write allowable  
state when writing of firmware having a rewrite order ahead of said  
acquired rewrite order into said predetermined memory has ended.
4. A computer-readable recording medium in which is recorded a  
data communication program defined in claim 1.

5. A data communication apparatus comprising:  
reception portion for receiving electronic mail with firmware  
attached via a network,  
acquirement portion for acquiring information relating to a rewrite  
5 order of said firmware from said electronic mail,  
determination portion for determining whether said firmware attains  
a write allowable state into a predetermined memory based on said  
acquired information relating to a rewrite order, and  
writing portion for writing said firmware into said predetermined  
10 memory when it is determined the firmware attains a write allowable state  
by said determination portion.

6. An image formation apparatus comprising a data communication  
apparatus defined in claim 5.

7. A data communication method comprising:  
a reception step of receiving electronic mail with firmware attached  
via a network,  
an acquirement step of acquiring information relating to a rewrite  
5 order of said firmware from said electronic mail,  
a determination step of determining whether said firmware attains a  
write allowable state into a predetermined memory, based on said acquired  
information relating to a rewrite order, and  
a write step of writing said firmware into said predetermined  
10 memory when it is determined the firmware attains a write allowable state  
by said determination step.

8. A data communication program to cause a computer to execute:  
a determination step of determining whether firmware attached to  
electronic mail is a part of a predetermined firmware,  
a confirmation step of confirming existence of remaining firmware of  
5 said predetermined firmware when it is determined the firmware attached

is a part of the predetermined firmware by said determination step, and  
a write step of writing said part of firmware into a predetermined  
memory together with said remaining firmware when it is confirmed said  
remaining firmware exists by said confirmation step.

9. The data communication program according to claim 8, further  
causing the computer to execute:

an information acquirement step of acquiring information relating to  
firmware from electronic mail in a mail server, and

5 a firmware acquirement step of acquiring from said mail server said  
remaining firmware and said firmware attached to the electronic mail  
when it is confirmed said remaining firmware exists by said confirmation  
step,

10 wherein said determination step determines based on said acquired  
information, and

wherein said write step writes said respective acquired firmware into  
said predetermined memory.

10. The data communication program according to claim 8, further  
causing the computer to execute:

an acquirement step of acquiring electronic mail from a mail server,  
and

5 a storage step of storing firmware attached to said acquired  
electronic mail,

wherein said determination step determines based on information  
relating to firmware obtained from said acquired electronic mail, and

10 wherein respective said stored firmware is written into said  
predetermined memory in said write step.

11. A data communication program causing a computer to execute:  
a determination step of determining whether firmware attached to  
electronic mail is a part of a predetermined firmware,

a confirmation step of confirming existence of remaining firmware of

said predetermined firmware when it is determined the firmware attached is a part of the determined firmware by said determination step, and  
a transmission step of transmitting said firmware attached to a predetermined module together with said remaining firmware when it is confirmed said remaining firmware exists by said confirmation step.

12. A computer-readable recording medium in which is recorded a data communication program defined in claim 8.

13. A data communication apparatus comprising:  
a determination portion for determining whether firmware attached to electronic mail is a part of a predetermined firmware,  
a confirmation portion for confirming existence of remaining firmware of said predetermined firmware when it is determined the firmware attached is a part of the predetermined firmware by said determination portion, and  
a writing portion for writing said firmware attached into a predetermined memory together with said remaining firmware when it is confirmed said remaining firmware exists by said confirmation portion.

14. An image formation apparatus comprising a data communication apparatus defined in claim 13.

15. A data communication method comprising:  
a determination step of determining whether firmware attached to electronic mail is a part of a predetermined firmware,  
a confirmation step of confirming existence of remaining firmware of said predetermined firmware when it is determined the firmware attached is a part of the predetermined firmware by said determination step, and  
a write step of writing said firmware attached into the predetermined memory together with said remaining firmware when it is confirmed said remaining firmware exists by said confirmation step.

16. A data communication program to cause a computer to execute:  
a confirmation step of confirming reception of electronic mail  
attached with one of a plurality of firmware, each firmware having a  
memory write priority level set,

5 an acquirement step of acquiring information relating to said priority  
level of said attached one firmware from said electronic mail,

a determination step of determining whether said attached one  
firmware attains a write allowable state into a predetermined memory  
based on said acquired information relating to a priority level, and

10 a permission step of permitting writing of said one firmware into a  
predetermined memory when it is determined the firmware attached  
attains a write allowable state by said determination step.

17. The data communication program according to claim 16, further  
causing the computer to execute a write step of writing said one firmware  
15 into a predetermined memory when writing is permitted by said permission  
step.

18. The data communication program according to claim 16,  
wherein said determination step determines a write allowable state when  
the priority level of said attached one firmware is highest among firmware  
20 not written into a memory out of said plurality of firmware.

19. A computer-readable recording medium in which is recorded a  
data communication program defined in claim 16.

20. A data communication apparatus comprising:  
a confirmation portion for confirming reception of electronic mail  
attached with one of a plurality of firmware, each firmware having a  
memory write priority level set,

5 an acquirement portion for acquiring information relating to said  
priority level of said attached one firmware from said electronic mail,

a determination portion for determining whether said attached one

firmware attains a write allowable state into a predetermined memory based on said acquired information relating to a priority level, and

10        a permit portion for permitting writing of said one firmware into a predetermined memory when it is determined the firmware attached attains a write allowable state by said determination portion.

21. The data communication apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a writing portion for writing said one firmware into a predetermined memory when writing is permitted by said permit portion.

22. A data communication method comprising:

a confirmation step of confirming reception of electronic mail attached with one of a plurality of firmware, each firmware having a memory write priority level set,

5        an acquirement step of acquiring information relating to said priority level of said attached one firmware from said electronic mail,

a determination step of determining whether said attached one firmware attains a write allowable state into a predetermined memory based on said acquired information relating to a priority level, and

10        a permission step of permitting writing of said one firmware into the predetermined memory when it is determined said attached one firmware attains a write allowable state by said determination step.

23. A recording medium recorded with a data communication program that causes a computer to execute processes of:

acquiring information relating to a rewrite priority level of firmware from electronic mail with one of a plurality of firmware attached,

5        determining whether said firmware attached to electronic mail is writable into a memory based on said acquired information relating to a priority level, and

writing said one firmware into said memory when determination is made that writing is allowed by said determination.

24. The recording medium according to claim 23, wherein said plurality of firmware correspond to division of firmware for one module into a plurality of parts, and the priority level corresponds to an order of division.

25. The recording medium according to claim 23, wherein said plurality of firmware are respective firmware for a plurality of modules.